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MEDIA ADVISORY

New Moves Underway to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence

Sessions Across the State to Train Police in the Law and Procedures

In August 2010, a new system will go into effect in Maryland providing an additional layer of protection to victims of domestic violence. On June 8, June 9 and June 11, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) will hold a series of training sessions on the system for police

The new system is called VINE Protective Orders (VPO) and it is meant to protect domestic violence victims from retaliation when they acquire a protective order. The time immediately after a protective order is served can be particularly dangerous for the petitioning victim. Often, the respondent reacts violently when served, putting that petitioner in further danger. Up until now, the victim might not know when a protection order had been served, and be vulnerable to retaliation.

Under VPO, local police will notify the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) within two hours after serving an interim or temporary protective order on an individual. Using an automated system, DPSCS will notify VINE, and VINE will alert the petitioner within seconds that the order has been served. This gives the petitioner an opportunity to take any steps he or she feels necessary for protection against possible retaliation by the respondent.

VPO is an extension of the existing VINE program in Maryland, which stands for Victim Information and Notification Everyday. The system allows petitioners to call a toll-free number any time of day or night to register for notification and to find out whether a protective order has been served, when a court order has been served, or court hearing held, when amendments are filed or when domestic violence order is about to expire.

The training sessions for police will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. and will be held:

Tuesday, June 8th, Anne Arundel Community College, Cade Building, Room 219
101 College Parkway, Arnold, MD 21012

Wednesday, June 9th, Cambridge Police Department Training Center, Second Floor
8 Washington Street, Cambridge, MD 21613

Friday, June 11th, Elgin Station Community Center
40 Elgin Blvd, Hagerstown, MD 21740

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